

She intends to major in civil engineering, but beyond this, she has no definite plans. In addition to her studies, Minnie works part-time in the mathematics office, belongs to the Phi Mu sorority, is Pan Hellenic Council representative, program chairman of the campus YWCA, and secretary-treasurer of the Engineering Students' Organization. Her choice of an engineering education was due, in part, to her interest in physics and mathematics while in high school. She has continued her splendid academic record by marking up a straight A average last semester.

Although she may encounter difficulties in engineering that men do not have to meet, a safe prediction based on her record, is that she shall most surely be successful. At least one Akron firm is looking forward to the time when Miss Griffiths enters the Engineering College's co-op training program.

The members of Phi Chapter regret that they cannot offer her membership, but only their best wishes for success and happiness.

March 1952

## EPSILON BUILDS GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

In a recent issue we editorialized on the problem of building good public relations. Epsilon, at Kansas State College, certainly is going about this in a highly commendable way as the following letter indicates:

May 8, 1952

Carol Reece, President  
Sigma Tau  
Box 504, Kansas State College  
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear Carol:

The Chamber of Commerce is extremely grateful to the members of Sigma Tau who assisted the City Beautification Committee by cleaning up an approach to the city, as well as planting approximately fifty shrubs and trees.

Manhattan has always been a beautiful city. The flood of 1951 left some bad scars which we are attempting to remove and to improve the beauty of our city. With the help of groups like yours, we will be able to do much that we could not otherwise do. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,  
LUD C. FISER  
Manager

## FROM HERDING CATTLE TO MECHANICAL BRAIN

From herding cattle in the Nebraska sandhills to directing construction of the nation's newest and most advanced computing machine. That is the amazing story of Jay W. Forrester, Alpha '39, born and raised on a cattle ranch 20 miles from Anselmo.

The young Nebraskan has risen to the top of the electrical engineering world within 33 years after being born on the ranch homesteaded by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. (Duke) Forrester.

Forrester's scientific accomplishments were given nation-wide recognition recently when security wraps were taken off Whirlwind I—the only large-scale computer of its kind in full operation in this country. Forrester directed a 200-man staff for five years in developing the new super "electronic-brain."

Technically known as an ultra-high-speed digital computing machine, Whirlwind is now in operation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Cambridge, Mass.

Biggest feature of the new computer is that it can supply solutions to complex problems almost instantaneously. It performs calculating functions at the rate of 20,000 times a second and solves in 15 minutes a problem requiring 15 years for a clerical worker with an ordinary desk calculator.

Automatic calculators of the past have been unable to provide solutions in time to be applied to the problem effectively. But Whirlwind, for example, can figure and deliver instructions at an airport for hundreds of approaching planes, plotting a safe course for each.

The machine is expected to answer countless problems in such fields as industrial process control, insurance handling, inventory, economic analysis and scientific and engineering computations.

It is being counted on by an electric power organization to determine whether dams or coal burning plants should be built to supply additional power to its customers. It has started work for the oil business to figure the most efficient processes for pumping petroleum. It has determined assignment of proposed television channels throughout the nation.

Whirlwind is a giant of a machine occupying 2,500 square feet. It was deliberately made large to provide for ease of servicing and testing. Successors of a more practical size are planned.